

**HARVEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUBLIC MINUTES  
3 MAY 2010**

Attending: Matt Altman, Megan Amundson, Steve Clifford, Jessie Grogan, Andrew Kessel, Chris Lively, Rebecca Nemece, (via telephone) Diane Simpson (board administrator), Mike St. Clair, (general manager) Scotland Willis.

Absent, Excused: Jessica Hiemenz, Elizabeth Levy

Meeting minutes taken by Diane Simpson.  
Meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m.

**Announcements**

Chris & Meredith Thompson will perform *SoundScience Fun!* on Sat. May 8th, 3:30 p.m. at Club Passim on 47 Palmer Street Cambridge MA. At *SoundScience Fun!* we sing about strings, hum about drums, ride a sound wave and have fun!

**GM Report**

Harvest Co-op was one of 11 businesses receiving certification as a sustainable business leader in the inaugural round of certifications by the Sustainable Business Leader Program. Harvest Co-op completed a rigorous six-step SBLP process to reduce our collective carbon footprint. Measurable and significant changes were identified and implemented in areas including energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, pollution prevention, and sustainability management.

The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Boston (SBN) launched the Sustainable Business Leader Program (SBLP) in 2008 through a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). The objective of the SBLP is to provide guidance, support, and technical assistance to facilitate the ‘greening’ of small and medium-sized locally owned businesses in Massachusetts.

Harvest was asked to participate and “sailed through with flying colors.” It is a tangible and rigorous process to see if Harvest is doing the right things, and to allow it to make adjustments if not. They also rate companies on the sustainability language in their mission statement.

Questions & Answers:

Q: When did our membership start?

A: Last summer-right before *Shift Mob*. (The *Shift Mob* event was on Thursday, June 25, 2009 5:00-9:00 pm)

Q: What is the cost?

A: \$250. They did a lot of work. Our waste/recyclability are head and shoulders above the other companies.

Q: Is it an ongoing process?

A: Yes. We might be asked to help out when we can.

Mike asked the board if there was a possibility of adding language regarding sustainability to the mission statement. (See below.)

*Harvest Co-op Markets is committed to building a vibrant community and healthier world by selling natural and organic food and bringing the benefits of cooperatives to our members.*

*We offer a full line of products and services sought by our members, with an emphasis on natural and organic foods.*

*We educate and advocate for our members as consumers.*

*We support local, organic, cooperative and fair labor suppliers.*

*We strive to build a democratic and welcoming community that celebrates the diversity of our members.*

The Board discussed the idea and also discussed what the current mission statement said (above) and the fact that several directors thought that it already embodied a lot of language suggesting sustainability even if it did not say it outright. One director said she would be interested in having the discussion because, as she put it, “Many things we do are triple bottom-line anyway.” Mike explained that the organization had already reviewed our mission statement and that they wanted us to strengthen language regarding lowering our carbon footprint.

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to research what language is appropriate and make a specific proposal to the Board.

### **Elections**

Chris announced the kickoff of the election season. Chris will be pushing MSCC experience a lot more this year, although she pointed out that Harvest cannot turn members away if they want to run. Steve noticed that under “Expectations Accomplish? Authority? Limits to Authority?” on the committee worksheet, they had “conduct outreach through informing other BoD to mention the election at tabling, reviewing and disseminating election packet and election marketing materials” and suggested that the committee add the following items:

- Reviewing nominations
- Recommending endorsements
- Administering the election

**Motion: Accept the 2010 Elections Committee goals with the additions listed above.**

Steve moved, and Jessie seconded, the motion to accept the 2010 Elections Committee goals as amended. Approved 8-0-0.

### **Annual Meeting Location Search Committee**

The AMLSC has a mission of finding a suitable location in JP for the annual member meeting on Wednesday Oct. 27, 2010 at 4–10 p.m. Jessica is chair of the committee, and Rebecca and Andrew are members. Diane Simpson (board administrator) helps them out occasionally.

Diane presented the findings of the committee. Although the committee had not yet had a chance to tour all of the sites they were interested in, there were several that had been removed from the list due to size constraints. The committee needed to ask Mike if he was absolutely wedded to having a kitchen because they were having a hard time finding a place with a kitchen that met the meeting size requirements. Mike said Harvest might need to cater the event anyway—it would not be a deal-breaker. There were a few other questions regarding flexibility of the date and the drop-dead reservation deadline (June 15). Diane said she would check the flexibility of the date in the bylaws (Done—see below.)

***SECTION 4: ANNUAL MEETINGS***

*Annual meetings of the members of the Cooperative shall be held each year between September 15 and November 30, at a place designated by the Board of Directors.*

**MSCC Community Fund Update**

MSCC (Membership and Social Concerns Committee) came up with a process regarding the Community Fund. If board members have feedback or criteria, they should email the MSCC. Harvest members will also solicit potential recipients. There will be a simple form to fill out: Name, Mission, Purpose of funds. It is not known if MSCC plans to cap the number of entrants at this point. There will be a finalist night in the café. At the next meeting there will be a list of criteria. They will recommend 1-3 recipients. Volunteer activity will be considered a bonus.

In the discussion followed, there was a lot of support for the plan. One director noted that it would be better to set out the criteria first and then ask for submissions. The director advised the MSCC to think very carefully about the criteria because there will undoubtedly be a huge number of applicants. A few suggested criteria: “food related” “sustainable” and “in Boston area.” The MSCC will have to consider deadlines and figure out how they will be able to review all the applications. Andrew noted that the MSCC will do a specific timeline at the next meeting.

Questions and Answers:

Q: What is the amount to be awarded, and do we want to broadcast that amount?

A: \$6,500; yes.

Q: Will there be a discussion with the applicants regarding the amount available?

A: Yes, we will discuss that at the next meeting.

**Minutes Approval**

Steve read the last-minute additions to the April public minutes over the conference phone. There was only one minor amendment.

**Motion: Approve April public minutes.**

Steve moved, and Megan seconded, the motion to approve the April public minutes as amended. Approved 8-0-0.

**Motion: Close May public meeting.**

Chris moved, and Andrew seconded, the motion to close the public session. Approved 8-0-0.

The public session ended at 7:55 p.m.

**Action Item Summary:**

**ACTION ITEM** Mike to research what language is appropriate and make a specific proposal to the board.